

"Mt. Lebanon" Home of Gov. Jas. Garrard
Three miles north of Paris,
Bourbon County, Kentucky

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 20

Historic American Buildings Survey
G. M. Grimes, District Officer
304 Martin Brown Building
Louisville, Kentucky

Name of structure: "Mt. Lebanon", Home of Gov. Jas. Garrard

Location: On Peacock Road, three miles north of
Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky

Owner or
custodian: Wm. Garrard Talbot

Address: Paris, Kentucky

Date built: 1786
(approx)

Architect
or builder:

Present
condition: Excellent

Number of
stories: Two stories and attic (unfinished)
also basement.

Material used
in construction: Foundation: Native stone.
Exterior walls: Native stone.
Interior partitions: Frame, plastered.
Floors: Wood, random width, ash;
basement: earth.
Roof: Frame construction, covered with
asbestos shingles (recent).

Description: The name of "Mt. Lebanon" was given to
architectural this place on account of the numerous
and historical cedar trees surrounding it.

This house is in an excellent state of preservation,
having been thoroughly repaired several years ago by the owner
and is now used by his son as a residence.

The interior woodwork, stairs, doors, mantels, and
etc., are in almost perfect condition, including the hardware.
Originally there were wooden locks on all the doors, but all
of these have been removed with the exception of one, which
still remains on the door between the dining room and the
rear porch, and which shows very plainly on the photograph
of this particular door.

An examination of the first floor framing revealed an unusual feature of construction. The joists are hand-hewn, approximately four inches thick; spaced approximately two feet on centers. Small strips, approximately one by one and one-half inch, paralleling the floor boards are let into the joist underneath of each joint between the floor boards supported on top of the joist.

The framing of the roof rafters was done in a manner typical of many of the early buildings. The rafters being hand-hewn, tapering in size from the ridge to the eave, and mortised and tenoned at the ridge and held together by wooden pegs.

The exterior walls are of solid stone of a thickness of several feet; thus forming window reveals of considerable depth on the first floor, which was made into a very attractive feature of the house by the use of wide wood jambs and stools.

The "S" shaped anchor heads were placed on the front of the house by Gov. Garrard; the wall having been cracked by the earthquake of 1811. During the remodeling of the house by the present owner, tie rods were installed where these braces occurred, extending from outside to outside of front and rear walls, to correct the damage resulting from the earthquake, to make the structure secure, and to prevent further bulging of the front wall.

The house contains seven large rooms, four of which are on the first floor, and three on the second floor; in each room there is a large fireplace, and the house is well lighted with numerous windows.

The original tract contained five hundred acres of land, as entered in the Bourbon County records May 20, 1790.

Before the town of "Hopewell", which was afterwards known as Paris, was more than a stagecoach station, the Court of Bourbon County was held in Gov. Garrard's home at "Mt. Lebanon". The first court was held there May 16, 1786, (Collins History of Ky., Vol. II, page 71) by James Garrard, afterwards the second Governor of Kentucky; John Edwards, afterwards United States Senator; Alvin Mountjoy, Edward Waller, and John Gregg. John Edwards was appointed Clerk, and Ben Harrison, Sheriff.

Gov. James Garrard was born in Virginia January 14, 1759, and died at "Mt. Lebanon" January 19, 1822. He and his wife and daughter were buried in the family burial ground close to the house. Gov. Garrard's remains is one of the few governors not removed to Frankfort.

The grandson of Samuel Washington, a brother to

General George Washington, whose name was George Washington, was married at "Mt. Lebanon" on May 2, 1827, to Gabriella Augusta Hawkins, a granddaughter of Gov. Jas. Garrard.

"Mt. Lebanon" is in the possession of the great-grand son of Governor Garrard, and each year all descendants of the family gather there in order to preserve all traditions to their posterity.

G. M. Grimes

Recd. 1926 L. H. C. F.